

Benedict-Joy House  
224 N. Kalamazoo Avenue  
Marshall  
Calhoun County  
Michigan

HABS No. MI-240

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BENEDICT-JOY HOUSE

HABS No. MI-240

Location: 224 North Kalamazoo Avenue, Marshall, Calhoun County,  
Michigan.

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Robert Sackett.

Present Use: Dwelling.

Significance: A mid-19th century house with a picturesque tower and  
interesting details.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Main block built prior to 1844.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is incomplete chain  
of ownership:

Before 1844	Possibly Nathan Benedict
After 1844	Dr. Henry L. Joy
Present	Robert Sackett

4. Alterations and additions: The house was expanded in 1853, and  
the tower was added about 1857 during the ownership of  
Dr. Henry L. Joy. (This information is incomplete).

- B. Historical Context: The Joy family, who occupied the house for many  
years, included prominent professional members- doctors, lawyers, etc.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: L-shaped main section with clapboarding,  
roof brackets and decorative porch; tower with pyramidal roof,  
roof brackets and balconies.
2. Condition of fabric: Good in most cases.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Two-story main portion with rear one-story wing and three-story tower. (Dimensions are not available).
2. Foundations: About two feet high; wooden water table.
3. Walls: Painted clapboards.
4. Structural system and framing: Wood frame.
5. Porches: One-story, three-bay porch on west front, with compound piers; each bay has a two-part wooden arch with a central pendant.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: (Not recorded).
  - b. Windows: Double-hung sash; plain trim. Sash are largely replacements.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with modern shingles.
  - b. Tower: One bay square, three stories high. At the second and third stories the west windows are provided with wooden balconies. The railings are trefoil-arcaded, with a pendant, four scalloped arches, and narrow paneled pedestals higher than the rail. The rail is battlemented (some pieces are missing at the second story). Each balcony is supported on four curving tracery brackets. The tower roof is pyramidal and crowned with a finial which continues part way down the roof on each side. The finial is cut out of flat boards to simulate crockets in silhouette, with three crockets below the finial. The tower roof flares out to a wide overhang which is supported on each side by three pairs of brackets with turned moulded pendants.

C. Description of Interior:

(Not surveyed).

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: This house occupies a corner lot: the southeast corner of Kalamazoo Avenue and Prospect Street. The ground slopes slightly toward the south and has no landscape treatment other than a grass lawn.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Property records. Place of repository not indicated. It is suggested that they may be kept at the Calhoun County clerk's office.

"Nineteenth Century Homes of Marshall, Michigan." Unpublished doctoral dissertation by Mabel R. Cooper, student at the Florida State University, 1963.

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Historian, Marshall  
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August 26, 1965  
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